

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01

/084 W

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R 260815Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9297

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : PFOR

SUBJECT : VISIT OF UGANDIAN PRESIDENT AMIN

1. UGANDIAN PRESIDENT, GENERAL AMIN, VISITED GUINEA FROM 19 TO 23 NOVEMBER, ACCOMPANIED BY AN UNUSUALLY LARGE ENTOURAGE THAT TOOK THE GUINEANS BY SURPRISE. IN ADDITION TO THE ANTICIPATED PRIVATE TALKS WITH PRESIDENT TOURE, AMIN VISITED THE BAUXITE MINING AREA OF BOKE AND THE PROVINCIAL CAPITALS AT LABE AND KANKAN. HE WAS NAMED MARSHAL OF THE NOVEMBER 22 PARADE COMMEMORATING THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1970 INVASION AND WAS IN FACT THE ONLY FOREIGN CHIEF OF STATE WHO ATTENDED THIS CELEBRATION.

2. ALTHOUGH HE GAVE SEVERAL SPEECHES WHILE IN GUINEA, THE ONLY ONE OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE IN WHICH HE MENTIONED THE US WAS AT LABE. ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES WHO MADE THE TRIP AND HEARD THE SPEECH, AMIN IN THIS SPEECH REFERRED IN PASSING TO HIS MISUNDERSTANDING WITH THE US. IN WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO BE RELATED, HE ALSO ADVISED HIS FELLOW AFRICAN CHIEFS OF STATE THAT BY THREATENING TO ARREST THE

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FAMILIES OF REPRESENTATIVES OF IMPERIALIST POWERS THEY COULD

GET THE IMPERIALISTS TO BEHAVE.

3. FROM WHAT WE HAVE HEARD, PRESIDENT TOURE DID NOT VIEW THE VISIT AS AN UNMIXED BLESSING. IN INTRODUCING AMIN TO THE ASSEMBLED MILITANTS ON NOVEMBER 22, TOURE SAID THAT HE WAS APPREHENSIVE CONCERNING AMIN'S BACKING AND INTENTIONS JUST AFTER THE MILITARY LEADER SEIZED CONTROL BUT AMIN HAS PROVED HIS WORTH AS A REVOLUTIONARY AFRICAN LEADER. OTHER SOURCES COMMENTED THAT THE GUINEANS WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT AMIN DID NOT JOIN TOURE IN ATTACKING PRESIDENTS HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY AND SENGHOR. (IN HIS NOVEMBER 22 SPEECH AND IN HIS MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE ON THAT ANNIVERSARY DAY, TOURE AGAIN ROUNDLY DENOUNCED AND REVILED SENGHOR AND HOUPHOUET.) AS REPORTED IN CONAKRY 1791 AMIN ALSO SEEMS INTENT ON PLAYING SOME KIND OF A MEDIATOR ROLE IN RECONCILING TOURE AND HIS NEIGHBORING CHIEFS OF STATE. AT LEAST JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE (CONAKRY 1797) AMIN PLANNED TO STOP AND SPEND ONE HOUR IN DAKAR AND ANOTHER HOUR IN ABIDJAN ON HIS WAY TO KINSHASA.

4. IN CONTRAST WITH SEKOU TOURE'S ELOQUENT AND WELL-ORGANIZED MANNER OF SPEAKING, AMIN'S RAMBLING, DISJOINTED PRESENTATION SEEMED MORE LIKE THAT OF AN ILLERATE PERSON. HIS ATTEMPT AT A SCHOOLMASTERISH, SOMEWHAT PATRONIZING ADDRESS ON NOVEMBER 22 WAS BADLY RECEIVED ESPECIALLY COMING PAST LUNCH TIME AFTER A FOUR-HOUR PARADE. MANY PERSONS REMARKED ABOUT HIS ENORMOUS SIZE BUT APART FROM THAT HE APPEARED TO MAKE LITTLE POSITIVE IMPRESSION ON HIS GUINEAN HOSTS.
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